

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 59 and 64 through 81 are pending; claims 25, 39, 43, 46 and 56 are amended while claims 64 through 81 are newly presented.

Non-elected claims 60 through 63 have been canceled and are presented in a divisional application, together with a request for interference.

Amended claims 39, 43, 46 and 56, together with newly added claims 64 through 81, define, among other things, the elected species of Figs. 8A through 8G. The Applicant notes that the Examiner had asserted that claims 43 through 45 were withdrawn from consideration; Applicant notes however, that claims 43 and 44 clearly define the elected species, while claim 45 depends upon the more generic parent independent claim 43. Accordingly, claims 43 and 44 must be considered.

Claims 25 through 31, 39 through 42, 46 through 52, 54 and 56 were alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rendered obvious by Gokcebay U.S. 5,552,777. Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Each of these claims, together with newly presented claims 64 through 81, define, "*inter alia*," a "bar" interpose between a shell and a cylinder plug, and an "electrical operator". As defined by claim 25, for example, the electrical operator is "electrically operable to respond to a control

signal by moving ... ." In contradistinction, Gokcebay '777 uses a spring 48 that does not, respond to either a control signal or to any electrical stimulus by moving. The Examiner's attention is directed to the transitive and intransitive sense of the verb "move". In effect, the Examiner is rewriting Applicant's claims to substitute "by being *moved* between" for the express language currently used by these claims of "by *moving* between." This is an impermissible interpretation of Applicant's claims. In both mechanical and electrical analogues, the spring is considered as a passive, rather than an active component; consequently, the spring does not move itself, and must be moved by some external force. Applicant's electrical operator is defined by these claims as "being electrically operable to respond ... by *moving* between ... ." These distinctions are significant because they provide Applicant with indirect, rather than direct locking, and a concomitant increase in mechanical advantage to the user of components such as a side bar or detent. These features are utterly lacking from the art represented by Gokcebay '777.

Moreover, the Examiner's interpretation of Gokcebay '777 to identify his spring 48 as something that is "considered electrically operable" is improper, and contrary to the express teachings of Gokcebay '777. In claim 1 of Gokcebay '777, by way of the example, lines 10 through 14 define the spring while lines 21 through 26 define the operator. These components are distinct, serve distinct functions and cannot be twisted, in their meaning, like a nose made of wax, in order to improperly read these components upon Applicant's language.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Gokcebay '777 blocking pin/armature item 38 is a "bar"

instead of an armature and blocking pin, the Examiner's interpretation still has overlooked how the lock of Gokcebay '777 works and how that is different from the pending claims. According to Gokcebay '777, the "compression spring" item 48 is described in "Description of Preferred Embodiments" in Section 6 line 43 as follows: "The small solenoid 36 when powered overcomes the force of the compression spring 48. In section 8, line 21, it reads "When the solenoid is powered the blocking pin 38 will be released ie: retracted, and the operator [a human person] will be able to rotate the key in the lock, since the key bittings will match the bittings in the lock." Line 26 reads "the master ie: the microprocessor 72 sends the unique number again to U1 to turn off U2 and Q1, stopping the current to the solenoid and allowing the compression spring to *push the blocking pin outwardly* when the cylinder plug is returned to the locked position".

Of course the Gokcebay drawings illustrate the blocking pin/armature as being one in the same, with the spring constituting merely a spring.

If the Examiner believes that the "electrical operator" of the pending claims might be read as the spring of Gokcebay '777 and that the blocking pin of Gokcebay '777 could be read as a "bar" or sidebar, then Gokcebay spring does not provide "obstruction of said bar" as defined by Applicant's claims because, in fact, the spring provides no obstruction. It does exactly what Gokcebay describes, by biasing the blocking pin outwardly in the same manner as any biasing element, it intrinsically lacks the structure and is inherently devoid of the capacity to "obstruct" the "bar" simply because the same spring must freely and continuously, even in the absence of Applicant's control signal,

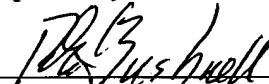
allow full reciprocation of the blocking pin of Gokcebay '777. Spring 48 of Gokcebay '777 is neither able to both concurrently and simultaneously "respond to" Applicant's control signal, provide Applicant's "obstruction of said bar," or be "electrically operable". Consequently, spring 48 cannot be considered to "be electrically operable" as asserted by the Examiner in support of this rejection. Moreover, if spring 48 were "electrically operable to move ...," then solenoid 36 of Gokcebay '777 would have no function. In short, the Examiner must consider "the subject matter" of each of these claims "as whole" in conformance with the requirement of §103, and must recognize that determinations of obviousness require an evaluation of all of the elements of each claim. The Examiner cannot accurately assert that "spring 48" of Gokcebay '777 has all of the characteristics and attributes of "blocking pin 38" of Gokcebay '777 without impermissibly requiring the solenoid 36 and spring 48 to function in a mode that is contrary to the express teachings of Gokcebay '777.

In view of the foregoing distinctions, and the advantageous results flowing therefrom, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 25 through 33, 39 through 56, and newly added claims 64 through 81 is required.

A fee of \$399.00 (**SMALL ENTITY**) is incurred by fourteen (14) extra claims and seven (7) extra independent claims. The check of Applicant's attorney drawn to pay to the order of Commissioner of this amount, is enclosed. Should the check become lost, should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments, withdrawal of the single outstanding art rejection and passage of this application to issue is respectfully requested. Should questions remain unresolved however, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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